

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the applicator comprises a hollow tubular body having a bore, the bore being configured to received the device.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the applicator comprises a half-tubular body configured to receive the device.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the coating surface comprises a completely or substantially flat substrate on which the device can be placed.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the porous region comprises pores having an average pore radius of about 0.1 microns to about 1000 microns.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the porous region has a porosity of about 20% to about 60%.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The system of the Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the porous region comprises a first sub region and a second sub region, such that the first sub region has an average pore size that is smaller than the average pore size of the second sub region.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the second sub region is disposed above the first sub region.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, additionally including an apparatus to rotate the support element.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the implantable medical device comprises a tubular shape having a hollow, longitudinal bore, and wherein the applicator is configured to fit into the hollow, longitudinal bore of the device.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the applicator is movable in a linear direction.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the device is a stent.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, further comprising a pressure apparatus to apply pressure to the composition in the reservoir to force the composition to travel through the porous region and onto the coating surface.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the applicator is made from a ceramic or polymeric material.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the applicator is made from a rigid material such that the coating surface does not comply when the device contacts the coating surface.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, A system for coating an implantable medical device with a coating composition, comprising:  
a reservoir holding a coating composition;  
an applicator including a coating surface and a porous region in fluid communication with the coating composition in the reservoir, wherein the porous region is capable of conveying the coating composition from the reservoir to the coating surface;  
a support element to support an implantable medical device in close proximity to or in contact with the coating surface of the applicator;  
a temperature controller in communication with the applicator, the support element or the reservoir for heating or cooling the coating composition; and

further comprising a pressurizing device in communication with the applicator or the reservoir for enhancing the conveyance of the coating composition from the reservoir to the coating surface.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the applicator comprises:

a first section having a porous region to be placed into the coating composition in the reservoir; and

a second section having a porous region in fluid communication with the porous region of the first section, the second section being disposed over the first section so as to provide a sealed space between the second section and the coating composition in the reservoir, wherein the second section includes the coating surface to coat the implantable medical device; and wherein the pressurizing device is in fluid communication with the sealed space.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 18, wherein the second section of the applicator comprises a hollow tubular body having a longitudinal bore configured to receive the implantable medical device.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the porous region of the first section has an average pore size smaller than the average pore size of the porous region of the second section.

21-33. **(Canceled)**

34. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the applicator has a uniform pore pattern.

35. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the applicator includes a network of interconnected pores.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein the applicator includes pores that are sized such that particles within the coating composition that exceed a predetermined size are not capable of being conveyed to the coating surface.

37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1 Claim 17, wherein a portion of the applicator is partially submerged in coating composition.

39. **(Canceled)**

40. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 39 Claim 42, wherein the coating surface is horizontally disposed above the reservoir.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 39 Claim 42, wherein a portion of the applicator is partially submerged in the reservoir.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 39, A system for coating an implantable medical device with a coating composition, comprising:  
a reservoir of coating composition;  
an applicator in fluid communication with the reservoir, the applicator including a porous coating portion having a coating surface, and a porous portion for conveying coating composition from the reservoir to the coating portion, wherein the length and/or width of the coating portion is substantially greater than the length and/or width of the porous portion; and  
a support element to support an implantable medical device in close proximity to or in contact with the coating surface of the applicator;

wherein the reservoir has walls and the walls, the porous portion and the coating portion form a closed space containing at least a portion of the coating composition contained in the reservoir, further including:

    a pressure device in fluid communication with the space and configured for regulating the coating composition conveyed to the coating surface by regulating the pressure in the space.

43. (Previously Presented) the system of Claim 42, wherein a surface of the coating portion facing the coating composition contained in the space is sealed.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 39 Claim 42, wherein the coating portion includes a coating surface formed by a horizontally disposed cylinder.

45. (Currently Amended) the system of Claim 39 Claim 42, wherein the coating portion has a first average pore size and the porous portion has a second average pore size that is smaller than the first average pore size.

46. (New) A system for coating an implantable medical device with a coating composition, comprising:

a reservoir holding a coating composition;

an applicator including a coating surface and a porous region in fluid communication with the coating composition in the reservoir, wherein the porous region is capable of conveying the coating composition from the reservoir to the coating surface;

a support element to support an implantable medical device in close proximity to or in contact with the coating surface of the applicator; and

a pressure apparatus configured to supply a gas to, and being in fluid communication with the coating composition so as to enhance the loading of the coating surface.

47. (New) The system of Claim 46, further including the reservoir, coating composition and/or applicator forming a closed space and the pressure apparatus draws a vacuum in the closed space.

48. (New) The system of Claim 46, wherein the pressure apparatus supplies a gas to the coating composition to enhance the loading of the coating surface.